**Who’s better off since 1959, Cubans or Puerto Ricans?** (modified)

**By the Havana Journal**

I ask this question so it will serve as a discussion regarding the governments running the two islands.

The US has “occupied” Puerto Rico since 1902 when we “acquired” it after we won the Spanish American war.

Fidel Castro has governed Cuba since January 1, 1959.

Who is better off, the Cuban people or the Puerto Rican people?

So, let this discussion be about the good and the bad regarding the US government and the Cuban government specifically as it relates to the people native to the islands.

Remember, Puerto Rico has no representation in the US Congress. It is simply a territory of the US. It is a Commonwealth and has some rights. The Puerto Rican people can only vote for a governor. The President of the U.S. is also their President, but they can’t vote for him or her on the island. They have to go to a state to do that. Puerto Ricans can only pass certain laws, the Congress has final say, and like I said before, they have no representation there. What they do have is personal freedoms.

Cuba is an independent country and makes its own laws for its people. Cubans have free health care and get other government help. Cuba is known for its great doctors and its people have a longer life expectancy than that of Puerto Rico and even the U.S. This means that people live longer in Cuba.

**Cuba vs. Puerto Rico: A 'Great Lesson for** **All of Our Peoples'** (modified)

**By Luis Pazos**

**February 27, 2008**

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 In 1950, Puerto Rico became part of the U.S. as the "*Associated Free State of Puerto Rico.*" Since 1950, Puerto Ricans have held 11 free elections.

Puerto Ricans have far more power to remove and select their leaders than people in Cuba, where they can only choose from the Communists.

For the past 49 years, Cuba has been ruled by the same person. Along with North Korea, the Cuban regime is the oldest dictatorship in modern history. Politically, Puerto Rico is a democracy/republic; Cuba is a dictatorship. When it comes to the economy, one need only visit the two islands to see the huge difference in the people’s lives. In 2005, the average Cuban made $4,000 per year; in Puerto Rico the average Puerto Rican made $19,300, almost five times higher than Cuba.

Posted by WORLDMEETS.US (modified)